

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 SAJ-01

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R 291818Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4025

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH VITO SCALIA, HEAD OF CISL MINORITY GROUP

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CISL OPPOSITION LEADER VITO SCALIA, IN MARCH 27 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY, EXPATIATED ON HIS GRAVE CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DIRECTION OF UNITY AMONG ITALIAN LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. SCALIA MADE THINLY VEILED APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC ASSISTANCE. HE STOPPED SHORT OF ASSERTING THAT HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES PLANNED TO DISAFFILIATE FROM CISL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 27 VITO SCALIA, UNOFFICIAL LEADER OF CISL MINORITY GROUP, AND LEANDRO TACCONI, MINORITY GROUP MEMBER ON CISL SECRETARIAT, PAID A CALL AT EMBASSY INVITATION ON THE LABOR ATTACHE AND ASSISTANT LABOR ATTACHE.

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3. THE CONVERSATION COCENTRATED ON THE TREND TOWARD LABOR

UNION UNITY AND EFFORTS OF THE SCALIA GROUP TO OPPOSE THAT MOVEMENT. SCALIA IDENTIFIED CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI AS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAGGING THE CISL INTO A SITUATION WHEREBY IT IS GRADUALLY BEING ABSORBED INTO A CGIL-DOMINATED LABOR MOVEMENT. QUESTIONED AS TO STORTI'S MOTIVES, SCALIA SAID THAT SOME SAY HE IS BECOMING A COMMUNIST. HE WENT ON TO INDICATE HE SHARES THIS VIEW. STORTI'S GREATEST ASSET, SCALIA SAID, IS HIS GENIUS FOR DISPENSING LABOR PATRONAGE. SCALIA REFERRED TO HIS GROUP'S POOR VOTE TOTAL IN THE RECENT CISL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (SEE ROME 4210) AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF STORTI'S ABILITY TO BUY OFF CISL LEADERS; THE VOTE WAS NOT AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF MINORITY STRENGTH.

4. SCALIA ASSERTED THAT AFTER THE FAILURE OF TRADE UNION UNITY IN 1972, STORTI AND CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA TOGETHER PLOTTED TO ACHIEVE TRADE UNION UNITY IN A MANNER TO AVOID FORMAL STEPS WHICH REQUIRE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BY THE STATUTORY ORGANS OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS. INSTEAD, UNITY WAS TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A SLOW EXTENSION OF THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL BOTH IN THE INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND ON A GEOGRAPHIC BASIS. THE PLAN ENCOMPASSED A GRADUAL DISSOLUTION OR WITHERING AWAY OF INDUSTRIAL UNION STRUCTURES. AT THE SAME TIME, NEW UNITARY "FACTORY COUNCILS" WOULD BE NURTURED. (THE FACTORY COUNCIL IS ELECTED BY AND REPRESENTS ALL WORKERS -- UNION AND NON-UNION ALIKE -- AND RESPONDS TO A MARXIST WORKING CLASS APPROACH TO LABOR RATHER THAN THE UNION ASSOCIATIVE APPROACH.) ACCORDING TO SCALIA, THE TIME IS APPROACHING WHEN THE "FOURTH" LABOR CONFEDERATION -- THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL ANCHORED BY UNITARY FACTORY COUNCILS -- WILL HAVE SUFFICIENTLY ERODED THE THREE ORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BECOME IN EFFECT A SINGLE LABOR FEDERATION. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE AN ORGANIZATION DOMINATED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

5. ASKED WHETHER THE PASSIONS AROUSED IN THE DIVORCE LAW REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN MIGHT NOT CREATE A RIFT BETWEEN THE CGIL AND CISL, THUS HALTING UNITARY TRENDS, SCALIA REPLIED THAT HERE WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE PERFDY OF THE CISL MAJORITY. WHEREAS THE CGIL AND UIL WERE LAUNCHING CAMPAIGNS TO PRESERVE THE DIVORCE LAW, THE CISL, RATHER THAN SUPPORTING THE DC ANTI-DIVORCE POSITION, WAS ADOPTING A STANCE OF NEUTRALITY.

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6. THE MAJOR POINT OF SCALIA'S DISCOURSE WAS THAT ACTION HAD TO BE TAKEN, AND SOON, TO COUNTERACT THIS DRIFT TOWARD UNITY. SINCE THE CISL AND THE UIL HAVE MOVED INTO THE CGIL ORBIT, THEREBY FORFEITING THEIR CREDENTIALS AS DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS, AND SINCE A GREAT MASS OF WORKERS STILL BELIEVE IN DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISM, SCALIA SAID THERE WAS AMPLE POLITICAL ROOM FOR THE CREATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE. HE RECALLED THE POST-WAR PERIOD WHEN THE CISL WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BUILDING A VIABLE TRADE

UNION ORGANIZATION FROM THE GROUND UP, BECAUSE THE CGIL HAD NOT SATISFIED THE ASPIRATIONS OF WORKERS FOR A FREE, DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION. SIMILARLY TODAY, UNITY WITH THE COMMUNIST CGIL WOULD LEAVE A VAST NUMBER OF WORKERS UNREPRESENTED. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED TO CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE CGIL IS A FEW COURAGEOUS LEADERS WITH SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN THE RIGHT PLACES.

7. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO EXPLICITLY, SCALIA INDICATED THAT HE IS SUCH A LEADER AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IS ONE OF THE RIGHT PLACES. MAJOR SUPPORT FOR ANY VENTURE, HE ADDED, WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM WITHIN ITALY, BUT HE WISHED TO DRAW A PARALLEL WITH THE POST-WAR PERIOD WHEN AMERICAN LABOR AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE WERE INDISPENSABLE IN THE CREATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CGIL. FINANCIAL HELP AT THAT TIME CAME DURING PREPARATORY PHASES BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE CISL. THE SAME REQUIREMENT HOLDS NOW. (THIS PORTION OF SCALIA'S VERY POINTED REMARKS WAS CLEARLY AN ALLUSION TO HIS CONVERSATION LAST DECEMBER WITH AFL-CIO REP IRVING BROWN -- SEE ROME'S 14019).

8. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE EXTENT OF DC (CHRISTAIN DEMOCRATIC PARTY) SUPPORT AND PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI'S PLANS FOR THE CISL, SCALIA REPLIED THAT THE EMBASS
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